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Peking Liaison Chief

David Kirkpatrick Este Bruce

The five Presidents of the War II might have found it difficult to agree on a number of things, especially in the conduct of foreign affairs. But when it came to the selection of a man to be trusted with a critical job, all five chose David Kirkpatrick

Man
in the
News

Este Bruce, who has become this country's senior diplomat despite repeated efforts to retire. After a long and distinguished career that included the posts of Ambassador to France, West Germany and Britain, Mr. Bruce retired in 1969.

But a year later, he was summoned back by President Nixon to head the American delegation at the Paris peace talks on Vietnam, an assignment he labored upon in frustration for a year before retiring once more.

Yesterday, President Nixon once again summoned the 75-year-old diplomat back to service, this time to become chief of the United States liaison office in Peking—this country's first representative in China since the Communists assumed power in 1949.

In announcing the selection of Mr. Bruce, Mr. Nixon said that it was "very important to appoint a man of great stature to this position."

Model of a Diplomat

In Washington and in many of the capitals where he has served abroad, Mr. Bruce is known fittingly as "Mr. Ambassador." Tall, spare, white-haired and exuding an air of unstudied elegance, he is in the classic image of the diplomat and associates say he fulfills his image admirably.

Behind the urbane, relaxed manner, Mr. Bruce is, according to those who have known him on the job, a political scholar and man of reason, who can be polite and analytical in an agitated situation. In more relaxed moments, he talks knowledgeably about books, silver, furniture, trends and other subjects with an easy informality.

He brought these qualities to his duties as President Harry S. Truman's Ambassador to Paris from 1948 to 1952, as President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Ambassador to Bonn from 1957 to 1961, and as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's from 1961 to 1969 under Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Mr. Nixon.

No other diplomat had ever held all three of the traditionally most important diplomatic posts in Europe. Mr. Bruce's eight-year tenure in London was also a record in that assignment.

Held Economics Posts

In addition to his ambassadorial positions, Mr. Bruce held a variety of posts after World War II, including those of Assistant Secretary of Commerce, American Aid Administrator in France, representative to the Coal and Steel Community, a precursor of the European Common Market and, for two years, Under Secretary of State.

His career has not always been in diplomacy and Federal Government service. In fact, he has, at various times, been a soldier, lawyer, farmer, businessman, state legislator, counterspy, historian and art patron.

David K. E. Bruce was born in Baltimore on Feb. 12, 1898. He was the son of William Cabell Bruce, who later was to become a United States Senator, and Louise Este Fisher Bruce, a socially prominent woman involved in civic causes.

After studies at Princeton and the Universities of Virginia and Maryland and World War I service as an artilleryman in France, Mr. Bruce practiced law for five years in Baltimore, served two years in the Maryland House of Delegates and joined the Foreign Service in 1926 as vice consul in Rome, a post he quit the following year.

Served in the O.S.S.

Tobacco farming and a

variety of businesses, ranging from banking to the manufacture of parachutes, occupied him through the nineteen-thirties, until his election to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1939. The following year, he was in London as chief representative of the American Red Cross. From 1941 to 1945, he was in the Office of Strategic Services, directing its European operations for the last two years of World War II.

Mr. Bruce and his wife, the former Evangeline Bell, have three children — Alexandra, David and Nicholas. Mr. Bruce had been married previously to Ailsa Mellon, daughter of Andrew W. Mellon, the Secretary of the Treasury and Ambassador to London. They had one child, Audrey, who died with her husband, in 1967 when their

private plane crashed near the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Bruce is a former president of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, and has been a trustee of the Metropolitan Opera Company and the Frick Museum in New York, as well as a member of the boards of various schools and businesses.

Though he is a Democrat, he has not engaged in partisan politics since his days in the Virginia Legislature. "The cardinal rule for an ambassador in a foreign country," he said on the occasion of his 1969 retirement, "is to cherish no antipathies or attachments for particular domestic political parties or programs."